

Dance Of...

Exterior: Night

Young lady stand anxiously waiting at a make shift bus stop with only an overhead light and two seats. She sees the bus light illuminating the dark two lane highway and excited, she reach to secure her bag and suit case.

The bus pulls over slowly to the side of the road and the driver gets out; opens the side carry truck.

Bus driver: Is this all you have?

Kelly: Yes, Sir (respectfully, nervous because she's hoping he can protect her on her trip)

Bus driver puts her luggage away and closed the trunk as she grabs her carry on bag and enters the bus behind him.

He goes to take his place in driver's seat and points to her as the bus is dark and everyone on it appears to be sleeping. He says:

Bus driver: Where are you heading.

Kelly (nervously): New York City

Bus driver: Ok, you can sit right there...we are about 10 hours away.

Kelly takes a deep breath and carefully falls into the sit as she relaxes knowing he will look out for her.

Bus pulls off; as the light turns back on illuminating the long dark road ahead.

Exterior: Evening

The bus is get closer to the city and the lights and cityscape is gradually coming into focus. Kelly is gradually waking up from her sleep as the bus driver reaches for his microphone and announces.

Bus driver: New York City!!!

Bus slowly pulls into stop...passengers are starting to get off the bus and collect their luggage. The driver looks at Kelly standing to the side looking lost and amazed, at the same time. He finally calls out to her.

Bus driver: Ms. you have to come get your stuff.

Kelly quickly snaps out of her daydream and the bus driver says:

Bus driver (knowingly): Is this your first time in New York City?

Kelly (embarrassed and shyly): Yes

Bus driver: Ok, young lady...here are your bags.

He hands her her bags and begins closing the trunk but he notices Kelly has not yet left. So, he turns around slowly after closing the trunk.

Bus driver: You will be just fine...it's a big city but many have done exactly what you are doing and it all turned out just fine.

Kelly, reassured because this is the peep talk she needs. And she says shyly...

Kelly: Yes, sir...thank you...you're so kind.

Still not leaving; so the bus driver turns and faces her again and says:

Bus driver: My name is Daniel and I come to the city at least once a month on my route. Take my number...call me if you need anything.

Finally, excited...she reach into her bag and pulls out her phone.

Bus driver: 659-699-9197...Daniel Bigsly...B I G S L Y...

After a long pause...

Bus driver: If you don't mind me asking...what brings you to the big city?

Kelly (hesitates): I'm a dancer.

With reassuring confidence...

Bus driver: Well, you came to the right place. Maybe I'll come see you on broadway soon.

Excited and reassured by Daniel's peep talk...she smiles...gives him a hug, grabs her bags and turns to leave before turning back again and waving.

Kelly: Bye...Mr. Bigsly...thank you for everything; and get home safely.

Bus driver: Thank you and be safe!

Kelly turns and leave...

Interior: (Train station)

Kelly is frantically trying to find her train while trying to read the signs posted overhead. She stops a passerby, showing him her phone he points to the uptown 1 train.

Interior (night)

Kelly opens the door to the apartment; relieved she's made it to her destination.

In the kitchen area is Quentin, a trans man in his mid-thirties but could easily pass for 23 years old. He fluctuates between being a trans man and a straight man...depending on his mood.

Quentin is bend over in the refrigerator trying to find food after a long weekend of partying. It's Sunday night as Kelly walks in on the way to her room.

Kelly (speaking to Quentin): Hi, do you know where room number 4 is?

Quentin, not really wanting to engage ignore her for a beat...then, point down the hall.

Quentin (pointing): It's down the hall to the right. Kelly, excitedly says:

Kelly (excitedly): Thank you!

Quentin ignores her once again...Kelly grabs her bags and luggage to find her room.

Interior (Mid-morning)

Quentin is walking out when he overhears Kelly on the phone.

Kelly (On the phone with her father): Yes, I left in the middle of the night. I'm in New York City now...I am going to look for a job today...Dad, I'm not coming back.

Quentin walks off...feeling a bit disturb by what he just heard.

Interior (Mid-day - Bedroom)

Kelly is still on the phone with her father.

Kelly: Yes, dad...I'll be fine. Tell mom I said hi.

Kelly listens reluctantly to her father on the other end of the line. Then, she hangs up the phone not so confident about her situation, yet, determined.

Kelly (speaking to her father): Bye, call you if I need anything.

Interior (Day)

Kelly is unpacking and get comfortable in her room when she hears a knock on her door. She goes to the door to find Quentin standing there.

Quentin: Girl, I'm your neighbor...unfortunately, you were introduced to my back side last night.

They both laugh, obviously fond of each other...a beat passes, then Quentin speaks.

Quentin: Don't mean to be nosey but I overheard you say you need a job.

Kelly (excited): Oh, yes! (After a beat) Never mind, that was my dad.

Quentin, not wanting to engage any further...turns to leave...

Quentin: I'm going back to bed...be ready at 6pm...I'll take you down to where I work. My manager is looking for another waitress for the evening and night shifts.

Before Kelly can respond, Quentin turns to leaves but remembers and ask:

Quentin: Have you ever waitress before.

Kelly: Yes

Quentin: Good...but this is New York City and this is (speaking intentionally) The Coffee Shop!

Kelly feels a bit intimidated but tried to hide it. Quentin heads back to his room and Kelly turns to close her door.

Interior (Day)

Kelly excited, jumps on her bed celebrating:

Kelly: Yes, Yes, Yes (talking to herself)...I know you can do this...trust the process!!!

Interior (Day)

Quentin is knocking on Kelly's door and she opens it.

Quentin: Are you ready?

Kelly: Yes, let me grab my bag.

Exterior (Day):

Quentin and Kelly are walking to the subway station and engaged in an animated conversation, clearly enjoying each other company.

Quentin: Where are you from.

Kelly: Raleigh (turns and looks at Quentin, not sure he understands) North Carolina.

Quentin finally understanding.

Quentin: Oh, yeah! I get it now.

They both laugh; then, after a beat:

Quentin: What brings you to New York.

Kelly (embarrassed and shy): Following my dreams.

Quentin: I can relate...(not wanting to over indulge; he switches the topic)

Quentin: The subway is right around the corner.

Interior (Early evening)

Quentin and Kelly walk into The Coffee Shop...Quentin greets the hostess.

Quentin: Yeah, girls how you doing?

Hostess: Good! You on shift tonight?

Quentin: No...thank goodness! Is Molly here?

Hostess: She's in the back.

Quentin: I'll be back later...got to take my friend Kelly to meet her.

Realizing he didn't introduce them, he turns to Kelly and says:

Quentin: Kelly, this is Sandy...Sandy, this is Kelly.

Both ladies politely awkwardly smile at each other and wave shyly.

Kelly: Hi, nice to meet you!

Hostess: Same here, I'm sure I'll see you around.

Quentin turns and starts walking towards the back and turning to Kelly:

Quentin: Come on child...follow me into your life...

Kelly smiles at the hostess again and follows Quentin.

Interior (Night)

Quentin and Kelly walk into the dining area of The Coffee Shop. It's sparsely full but the lights are dim and the energy there feels good for a Monday night. Quentin surveys the room and turn to Kelly and says:

Quentin: This place is hardly full right now...but starting from Thursday, sometimes Wednesday depending on the weather it's the holidays...this place is packed...wall to wall. At night especially...

Kelly: Really?

Quentin: Child...on Thursday nights...it's The Dance Of...this week is The Dance of Freedom...it's a different dance of every week...

Kelly: Nice...that's cool!

Quentin: Everyone one and their mama are dying to get in here:...models, actors, dancers, producers, directors...you name it...

Kelly getting really excited that she has found her home so quickly...

Kelly (Excited): Wow!!! Can't wait!

Quentin: Let's go catch Molly before it gets too busy in here...

Quentin turns and heads towards the kitchen in the back...followed by Kelly; trying to keep pace with him.

Interior (Day)

Quentin and Kelly are standing outside the office door and Quentin knocks...hesitates, then pushes the door open. Molly is on the phone...then looks up...covers the phone and addresses Quentin.

Molly (into the phone) give me a minute...(then, turns to face Quentin)...yeah, what do you want.

Quentin (Pointing to Kelly): This is my friend Kelly...she's looking for work and I heard you need people.

Molly (Looks at Kelly): Yes...we do! (pointing to the door) wait outside...I'll talk to you after this call.

Molly goes back to her call as Quentin and Kelly exit.

Molly (back into the phone): Hello?

Interior (Day):

Quentin and Kelly are talking when the office door opens.

Molly (To Kelly): Come in!

Interior (Day)

Molly's office: Kelly sitting in a chair next to Molly's desk. She is busy and trying to handle this business before her day gets too busy. She starts asking Kelly questions.

Molly: Have you ever been a waitress?

Kelly: Yes (she's about to speak again before Molly cuts her off) I used to...

Molly: Good...when can you start?

Kelly (Surprised): Tomorrow...

Molly: You can start Thursday...I'll put you and Quentin on the same shift...he'll show you the ropes...(sarcastically)...he's been here long enough.

Kelly (Excited): Ok...thanks!

Molly (Pointing to the door): Tell Quentin to come in.

Kelly exists and says:

Kelly: Thanks!

Molly: You can fill out the paperwork on Thursday during your break.

Kelly exists:

Interior (Evening):

Quentin comes out of Molly office; excited, reaches to hugs Kelly.

Quentin: Girl, I told you...you're tall and cute...New York City's not ready for you.

Kelly (Hugs Quentin): Thanks!!! You're the best.

Quentin: Know what? We should go celebrate...I know this cute spot in Soho...We can have dinner and drinks for under \$50...I know this cute guy that works there.

They both laugh and exit.

Interior (Evening)

Kelly has started work and assisting Quentin with his order. The Coffee Shop is getting packed, stressful and more people are beginning to arrive. Quentin and Kelly are waiting to pick up their order when Justin walks in...bigger than life followed by an untoragh...

Kelly (Noticing): Who's that guy...he seems pretty sure of himself...

Quentin (Somewhat annoyed, yet respectful of Justin's talent and charisma) Don't mind him...he's just a cocky dancer...

Kelly: Really

Quentin, noticing her attraction to Justin...snaps his finger in her face.

Quentin (Handing her a plate): Take these to the table and come back for the rest.

Kelly suddenly snapping back to reality, turns to Quentin.

Kelly (Alert again): Sure...I'll be right back.

Kelly leaves and takes the plates to the table.

As she's coming back, the Dance Of Freedom is about to begin. The light goes down in The Coffee Shops and darkness fills the cafe for about two minutes as everyone is either rushing back to their table or trying to get inside.

The light comes on onstage first...just a red back drop light...then, after a minute, the spot light comes onstage as the host rushes onto the stage with plausible excitement that can be immediately felt throughout the entire room. The host grabs the mic already set up onstage and begins to speak into it:

Host (Excited): Once again, welcome to weekly Dance Of...here at The Coffee Shop...the only place to be in the entire world, not just New York City. And, please make sure to tip your waiters and waitresses; many of whom are dancers and artist like yourself.

He pauses for a minute to take a look at the card in his hand. Afterwards he begins to speak into the mic..grabbing it off the stand; walking and pacing across the stage as he speaks.

Host (Excitedly): Hi again, my name is Mike...no pun intended...I'm ashamed to say...I'm not a dancer (Emphasizing. AT ALL! As a matter of fact, I tripped over my left foot just getting out of bed this morning...lucky to be here and not in the hospital; on rushes. (After pause) I'll have to have a talk with my family about that (pauses for comedic effect) honestly! (Wiping the hair from his face) But you we not find anyone on stage tonight tripping because we have some of the finest dancers in the world performing on stage tonight.

The audience suddenly goes wild with clapping.

Host (More seriously): If this your first time here (cut to Kelly, who is excitedly waiting in anticipation).

Host (Back to host): Welcome!!! I promise tonight will be the best and most entertaining night of your entire life.

The host pauses for a minute to look at his card once again; once he has the found the information he's looking for he grabs the mic again and begins to speak.

Host: Our first act of the night comes to you all the way from Lagos, Nigeria (literally!!! (Pause) Let's give The Coffee Shop, New York City welcome to "The Ariel Boys"...

The lights goes down and comes up again...a mixture of green and white lights to set the mood...Four young men waltz on stage with a confident swagger....they are beginning their performance when camera pans to Quentin and Kelly. Quentin to Kelly:

Quentin (hurriedly): Finish clearing the table...(grabs the receipt) I'm going to make sure we get paid to tip tonight...I really need the money.

Kelly: Ok...no problem!

Quentin turns to leave but turns around again to address Kelly before heading off camera.

Quentin (pointing to the table): You can start setting up for the next guess...(looking at the hostess, then, back to Kelly:

Quentin: It a party of eight (Then rushes off with the receipt in his hand)

Kelly nods and continues clearing the table (hurriedly).

Camera pans back to stage (the first act is about to finish their routine...when their performance is complete, the audience goes wild with cheering.

Camera pans back to Kelly beginning to set up the table. As she is still setting up...a man in a well-dressed, tall, athletic, handsome black man dressed in a very expensive suit heads towards Kelly with two young women; one on either arm. He is smiling and confidently greets Kelly.

Royal (smiling excitedly): Hey young lady...I think this is our table.

Kelly (Shy and embarrassed) Sure, have a seat (She quickly grabs to wish cloth of the table).

Kelly continues sitting up the table as Royal's party begins to sit. Royal turns to Kelly after sitting down:

Royal (address his group and then Kelly): I think we got the best seats in the house tonight (then, sizing Kelly up) and, surprisingly, the waitress is not all that bad either.

Kelly a bit uncomfortable with the upfront flirting...grabs the cloth and finish setting the table and turns to leave.

Kelly: I'll be right back with your menus and waters.

Kelly walks towards the back and meets Quentin who is staring at the table.Quentin pointing at the talk and begins speaking to Kelly.

Quentin (Surprisingly, pointing) Is that Royal?

Kelly (Surprised, turns to look): Who?

Quentin: Royal (Then, realizing she's new)...Royal, honey...He's one of the biggest agents in town. All the top dancers and actors are signed with him.

Kelly (Now, a bit more alert) Really...(after a beat) But he's really quick with the flirting.

Quentin (Understanding immediately): Yeah, he has all the girls and (emphasizing) boys wrapped around his (pause) little finger.

Kelly acknowledges his comment, straightens up her self as if knowing how to handle herself moving forward.

Kelly: Ok...I see (grabs the water and menus and begins to walk back to the table)

Quentin (speaking to her as she's walking away): I'll be there in a minute, honey.

Kelly (Still walking away): Ok

Interior (Night)

The first group of dancers are finishing their routine. The music stops and the lights goes down slowly with a red light still blaring in the background. After a minute, the host runs back on stage with the mic in his hand.

Host (Excited): Wow!!! What a great performance...that's just a peak at what you can expect tonight...thanks Ariel Boys (As he turns to face the back stage area, then, back again to the audience who immediately starts cheering again) I gotta get some of that African music in my music collection (then shakes his head in agreeance with the audience. (Paused) Ok...our next group has been waiting patiently back stage...(looks at his card) let's give a warm welcome to "The Juicy Fruits"...

Four young ladies walks up and stage as the spotlight shines brightly on them. Camera pines to the table where Quentin and Kelly are busy with their guest at their table.

Quentin is speaking to Royal and the rest of the guest.

Quentin (Looking at the order on his notepad): Is that it...

Royal: Yes, that'll all for now...(Before Quentin can leave) Who is your assistant? She's seems like she just got to the city.

Quentin (Surprised he could tell): Nah, she's just new to The Coffee Shop. (Quentin turns to Kelly to reassure her)

Kelly gives an awkward smile; surprised at the obvious flirting from Royal. Royal turns to Kelly and begins addressing her directly.

Royal: You look like a dancer.

Both Kelly and Quentin are surprised again at Royal's comment and look at each other awkwardly.

Royal: You are a dancer right?

Kelly (forced to admit the fact): Yes, I am.

Quentin, surprised at this new revelation, turns to look at Kelly.

Royal: Do you have an agent.

Kelly (Surprised): No...as a matter of fact, I just got to the city.

Royal: Oh, I see.

Kelly and Quentin turns to leave as everyone at the table begins to chat about the dancers on stage.

Royal looks back at Kelly as she and Quentin walk away.

Interior (Night)

Quentin and Kelly are standing there waiting on their order.

Quentin: You didn't tell me that you dance.

Kelly (Embarrassed): You never got to that part.

Quentin: Oh, when were you planning to get to that part.

Kelly (Laughing): I guess now.

They look at each other and start laughing. Then, Quentin reaches over to give her a hug.

Quentin: No more secrets...(Emphasizing) you hear me.

They cross fingers in agreement:

Kelly: No more secret.

As the bell ring...

Chief: Table 5!!!

Quentin looks around:

Quentin: That's us!

Interior (Night)

Quentin and Kelly bring food to the table and begin serving each guest.

Quentin (To the table): Is everyone ok?

Everyone at the table...in unison...expect Royal; who is sizing up Kelly with a mix of lust and intrigue.

Table (Cheerfully): Yes!

The Royal looks at his plate, then back at Kelly.

Royal (Looking into Kelly's eyes; seductively says): Is that mine?

Kelly (Uncomfortable): Yes, that's yours.

Royal (Still seductively): Ok, we'll see!

Quentin rolls his eyes at Royal; who gets the point and drops the act.

Royal: We'll let you know if we need anything...(then, turns and engages the table as Quentin and Kelly begin to walk away)

Quentin: We'll be back...in case you need anything (then, in bad French)...Bon a petite!!!

Quentin and Kelly walks off as the camera pans back to the stage where another dance crew is on stage, while the crowd is going wild with excitement.

Interior (Night)

Camera turns back to the stage where the dance crew is in the middle of their performance. The crowd is still in a frenzy as the camera slowly pans the crowd and stops at a table in the back where Justin is sitting with two girls and a guy:

Dancer I (girl, just finishing a text message): Justin...I don't think Carly going to be able to make it.

Justin (Upset and aggressively): Fucking (Stops himself before he can finish)...what do you mean she can't make it?

Dancer I: What do you mean, what do I mean? (Frustratedly)...I just told you!

Justin, obviously frustrated, pauses for a minute and looks around at the other dancers on the table...then, out into the crowd.

Justin (Speaking, softly but measured): We have to find a replacement...(Looks into the audience again)...there got to be another dancer here that wants to come on stage with us.

Justin picks up his drink and downs it slowly as he's still looking into the audience. He puts his drink down looks at the other dancers whom are all engaged with their phones without a care.

Justin (Frustrated but determined): I'll be back.

No one responds...so he looks at them with disgust and walks off.

Interior (Night)

Justin is walking through the crowd walking towards the exit as the camera slowly follows him...the stage and audience are in partial view. The audience is cheering in spires as the dancers on stage are going through their routine.

Exterior (Night)

Justin is leaning against the wall as a girl exit the cafe and begins to pull out a pack of cigarette. Justin signals to the person for a cigarette and he is given one. The person is someone he obviously is acquainted with. She lights the cigarette and says:

Girl I (Lighting the cigarette): I have never seen you smoke before.

Justin (Takes and pull then relaxes): I don't!

As the camera follows his eyes as he looks down the street at the shadows of two people talking. Justin pushes off from the wall and says:

Justin (To the girl): I'll be back!

Exterior (Night):

The camera is follows Justin as he approaches the shadows of a man and a woman engaged in a conversation. As Justin circles around to engage the figure, a street lamp reveals Quentin and Kelly standing side to side, next to each other. Quentin is smoking a cigarette talking to Kelly as she is relaxed and engaged in their conversation. Justin steps up between them as Quentin rolls his eyes, obviously upset at Justin's presence.

Justin (Begin careful): Hey! What's up Quentin?

Quentin looks him up and down but does not respond.

Justine (Confidently): Excuse me for interrupting you guys (smiles awkwardly, looking at Kelly; he says): You look like a dancer.

Kelly surprised but does not respond...instead she looks at Quentin who gives her a nod of approval to go slow.

Justin (Determined; looks at Kelly with more scrutiny): Our lead female can't make it tonight; we need a replacement.

Kelly is intrigued but realizing she's at work, looks away without speaking.

Justin realizing the situation looks at Quentin for his approval. Quentin, once again stairs down Without saying anything. Then, Quentin looks at Kelly to find out if she's interested.

Justin (Realizing he has an advantage, continues): We go on in an hour...(To Kelly, firmly): It'll only take about 10 minutes to show you the routine...(Looks at Quentin again for his approval, then begins): We are onstage for about 10-15 minutes...(Pauses, looks at Quentin then Kelly)...You can do it all on your break.

Kelly, now is contemplating the idea...Quentin, once again surveys Justin, then look at Kelly to read her body language. No one says anything for a minute as the sounds of the street traffic fills up the tension.

Quentin, conceding, touches Kelly on the arm and begins to speak.

Quentin (Still touching Kelly): Honey, I guess it okay (pauses) if you're in the mood.

Kelly, still unsure, looks at her shoes and outfit; then, looks around at the environment as if trying to find inspiration. Brushes her hair away from her face, then looks back at Quentin for his approval once more.

Quentin nods his head softly in approval then stairs down Justine once again.

Kelly (Carefully but trying to find a reason to refuse): What about my outfit (Looking at Justin and sizing him up).

Justine (Patiently): It's a street scene (Looking at Kelly outfit)...but, we can fix your hair a bit.

Kelly (about to concede): Where are you going to show me the routine.

Justin (Excited, points to the parking lot): Right over there (Looking at her, then, at Quentin): You can meet me out here in a half hour.

Kelly: Sure (About to face Quentin and disconnect from the conversation with Justin)

Justin: I'll come get you in a half hour. (Looks at Kelly, who has already disconnected)

Kelly: Ok (As she turns to face Quentin)

Camera follows Quentin and Kelly as they turn to leave and head back into the restaurant. Justin is standing there in disbelief as he looks at his cigarette...thinks twice about smoking it...then, decides to smoke it...

Interior (Night)

A dance group is on stage getting busy and the crowd is going wild. After they are done, the MC comes back on stage to introduce the next group. As he introducing the next group, the camera pans to Quentin and Kelly serving drinks at their table. The MC can still be heard in the background as Kelly has a tray of drinks in her hand as Quentin is naming the drinks and passing it on.

Quentin (Taking the drinks off the tray) Vodka and cranberry (realizing)...oh, yes that's guys...and pointing to another guess)...You get the shot...(Finally takes the last drink off the tray and addresses Royal)...You get the Heineken.

Before they leave, Quentin addresses the table and says:

Quentin (Confidently): Is everybody ok with your drink?

The table response unanimously: Yes!!!

Quentin, satisfied, taps Kelly and smiles at her, then says:

Quentin: We'll be right there if you need anything else...

Quentin and Kelly walks toward the kitchen.

Interior (Night)

Quentin and Kelly are engaged in a conversation when Justin comes into the scene.

Justin (Clearing his throat shyly): Excuse me (waits a beat as Kelly, startled, turns to face him)...didn't mean to startle you.

Kelly, realizing who it is and relaxes a bit.

Justin (begins again): We are ready (Looking for her approval)

Kelly looks at Justin for a beat, then, back to Quentin in order to read his signals.

Quentin (realizing what's happening): Sure, honey (reaches out and hug her) you can go, I got them covered...

Kelly: Okay, let me know if it gets too busy...

Quentin: Don't worry, honey, I got it...(Looking at Justin in a protective way)...enjoy yourself...have fun (Giving Justin a final stare down).

Kelly takes her apron off and straightens out her hair. Kelly, walking along side Justin, exit The Coffee Shop for the street.

Exterior (Night)

Four dancers are out under the street lamp rehearsing their dance moves in an almost empty parking lot when Justin and Kelly emerge from the shadows. They all turn to face Justin and Kelly. They slowly form an half opened circle around Justin and Kelly.

Justin: (Point to each person as he speaks: This is Marge...Jennifer (turning to the two guys)...that's Steve and he's trouble...stay away from him (They laugh but Kelly does not find it funny)...(Becoming serious again) Just kidding...that's Mark. (Pause for a beat and face Kelly)...This is Kelly...

Group: Hi Kelly...(Randomly)...Nice to meet you...Welcome...thanks for doing us this favor...yeah, so nice of you.

Justin (Interrupting): Okay...(Directing)...Let's run it for her once so she can see...(turning to Kelly and pointing)...Just stand over there and watch.

They get in formation while Justin begins the counts off...

Justin (Tapping on his legs): Okay...1, 2, 3, 4...

At the end of his countdown, they break into their routine. Kelly is watching intently and trying to move to their rhythm and groove. When they are done, Justin turns to Kelly says:

Justin (Facing Kelly) Did you get that...

Kelly (unsure but confident; tries to mimic their moves. Stops, hesitates and stretch he head) Can you guys repeat that middle part again?

Justin (turns to the group again then to Kelly): Listen we can do it all over again (turns to the group again, then, back to Kelly) Stop us at where you are having problems and we can go slower. (He turns to the group again)...Here we go...1, 2, 3, 4...

They bust into their rhythm and groove again but this time much sharper than before. Kelly is getting the inspiration that they are all well trained and their routine is something she always wanted to be a part of. She is starting to feel more sure about her decision to move to New York City and follow her dreams.

Kelly (Gesturing them to stop): Wait!!! That part...

Justin (Suddenly stopping and gesturing to the other dancers to go slower): Ok...it's 1, 2, 3 and 4...then, repeat 1, 2 and 3 and 4...(To the other dancers)...let's take it from right there...

They all agree and start from the beginning of that routine...Kelly is trying the steps out in order to get her rhythm...Then, Justin motion to her to join the group...Once Kelly is in place, Justin once again begins the countdown.

Justin (Gesturing) Ok! From the top...and...1, 2, 3, 4...

They jump back into their routine; Kelly is struggling to keep up but she is not far off...At the section where Kelly had an issue, Justin gestures to go slow and begins counting again...

Justin (Looking at Kelly)...1, 2 and 3, and 4...turn...slide...1, 2, 3 and 4...to the left...

Kelly, smiling with a sense of relief that she's getting the routine...

Kelly: Ok...I think I got it...

Justin (Relieved): Ok...let's take it from the top...(Pauses while they get back formation)...From the top...and...1, 2, 3, 4...

They bust back into their routine again but this time they are all in sync though Kelly is still a step or two behind in certain places...when they complete their routine, Marge begins to speak to Kelly.

Marge: That's pretty good...you learn fast.

Justine (Echoing Marge): Yeah...that's pretty good...(Looks around for confirmation from the rest of the group, then speaks) Ok, let's do it again...a bit faster this time...

The group: Ok!!! (In unison)

Justin (Tapping his right leg to the rhythm) Okay...Here we go!!! 1, 2, 3, 4...

They get back into their routine again. This time Kelly is in sync with the group. Then, suddenly someone comes rushing towards the group.

Friend (Gesturing to Justin): You guys are up next!!!

Justin (Surprised and startled): Good...Thanks!

The group stops and everyone is straightening themselves up and getting prepared...while Justin walks over to Kelly and begins to speak:

Justin (Softly): How are you feeling?

Kelly cuts him off before he can finish:

Kelly (Looking up at him; apprehensively): I'm good!!!

Justin: I meant about the routine.

Kelly (A bit off guard): I'm okay...(hesitates, then speaks)...I'll follow you guys...(Reassuring Justin)...I'll be okay, don't worry (As her left hand unconsciously rests below his shoulder, then, quickly withdrawn)

Justin (Reaching in a bit closer): There's only one part we didn't show you (Kelly, looks up with surprise)...(Justin takes a deep breath; trying to figure out how to say it without scaring her)...It's a small solo (pause to gauge her reaction) between you and me.

Kelly (Trying to remain calm): You didn't tell me about a solo (emphasizing "solo")

Before Kelly can continue, Justin interrupts her:

Justin: Don't worry, just follow my lead...(pause for a beat)...we can improvise the entire solo...just follow my lead...

Kelly looks away in frustration; before she can speak, Justin puts his hand on her right shoulder.

Justin: It will be fine...just do your best to follow me.

Before Kelly can respond to him, Justin turns to the group and begins to speak:

Justin: Hey, we can do the solo part just as we rehearsed...(Looking at group then back to Kelly again)...Kelly and I will wings it (With a bit of hockey confidence)

Kelly smiles awkwardly, then, joins the others in the group as they begin chatting amongst each other.

Interior (Night)

The host comes back on stage to introduce the next act:

Host: Are you having fun tonight (The crowd goes wild with cheers and whispering)...I can't hear you...are you still awake (The crowd gets louder as some are saying: ("Yes, we are awake))

The host pauses again and begins to speak:

Host: Make sure to tip your waiters and waitresses...you have to treat them well...I'm sure they are all doing a great job for you tonight...(The crowd goes silent)...Ok!!! Our next act is brings some of the best routines I've seen on this stage...(Pauses to look at his card)...Let's welcome to the Coffee Shop stage: The Love Birds.

Six dancers hustle on the stage and get in formation as the lights dim with only the spotlight focused on stage. There is real excitement and tension in the air...on stage and in the audience as the music starts blasting through the house speakers. The group breaks into its routine and the crowd is loving it...clapping on every move and enjoying the performance...then, the solo arrives...Justin and Kelly lock hip in a close embrace as the crowd is going wild because of the chemistry between Justin and Kelly...Justin swings Kelly around in a very flirtatious manner and their eyes are locked very seductively.

Camera pans close to Justin and Kelly as they are locked in their embrace. Justin pulls Kelly in even closer...

Justin (whispering to Kelly): Just follow my lead.

Kelly continues to look into Justin's eyes but does not speak...signifying her agreement. She is looking at Justin with intensity as the crowd continues to go wild. They dance passionately as Justin is guiding her through the routine...and as they are about to finish their solo, it appears they are about to share an onstage kiss which has the crowd cheering and chanting even louder. Before they can kiss (which appears they both wanted to), Mark taps Justin on the shoulder...breaking their trace and bringing Justin and Kelly back into the group's routine.

They finish their dance and walk off stage as the host is on stage. The host clapping and smiling too like he enjoyed their routine just as much as the audience did.

Host (Clapping and excitedly): Let's give it up for "The Love Birds".

Interior (Night):

The Love Birds have just come off stage and backstage and the audience is buzzing with excitement. There is definitely an electric energy in the air as people backstage are coming up to congratulate the group.

Kelly finishes hugging and everyone in the group and comes up to Justin somewhat apprehensively. She gives Justin an uncomfortable hug, trying to avoid direct eye contact and begins to speak:

Kelly (Shyly): I...I have to get back to work.

Justin (As if just realizing): Oh, yes!!! Off course!!!

Pause for a bit and also becomes uncomfortable. As Kelly is about to turn away from Justin, he says:

Justin: By the way, you did really good out there tonight (silent threat)...Next time just don't try to steal the show.

Kelly is a bit flustered by his statement but does not speak. She walks off camera with a puzzled look on her face.

Interior (Night)

Kelly is fixing herself and putting her apron back on when suddenly Quentin appears to give her a big hug.

Quentin: Child!!! You are destined for Hollywood...I didn't think you could dance like that.

Kelly: Thanks!!!

Trying to change the topic and take the attention off her.

Quentin (Kissing Kelly on the cheeks, affectionately): Oh honey, don't be so modest you were really good out there (Looking for a response but speaks before he can get one)...You and that boy, Justin...your got some serious chemistry...be careful with that one...he's a real heartbreaker...

Kelly looks at Quentin but does not respond...Quentin grabs her by the arm (playfully) and leads her out of the scene.

Interior (Night):

It's later in the night and the restaurant is not as crowded as before. There are still acts performing on stage but the audience is not as loud as they were earlier in the night. Quentin and Kelly are clearing the table as Royal and his guess are preparing to leave. A new group of dancer are now on stage and what's left of the crowd is going wild. Quentin and Kelly are saying bye to their guess.

Royal (Turns to Kelly and hands her a card): Give me a call...you were the really exceptional out there. He turns to leave but turns around again.

Royal: You've got something special...let's see what we can do with it.

Royal and his guess exit while Quentin and Kelly are still clearing their table.

Exterior (Night):

Quentin and Kelly are standing talking to each other when Justin comes out of the restaurant and begins to speak to them.

Justin: There you are!!! I was looking for you...thought you left.

Quentin and Kelly looks at him but don't say anything. After a moment of uncomfortable silence, Quentin realizes what's going on and decides to excuse himself.

Quentin (Kissing Kelly on her cheeks): I'm going to check on our table (Touches Kelly on her shoulder)...take your time...it's slow...but let me know if he's getting out of hand.

Kelly (Smiles and kisses Quentin back): Thank you...you're really sweet...I think I can handle myself (Looking at Justin)

Quentin then walks across Justin and brushes into him and says:

Quentin (In Justin ear...in a threatening tone while rolling his eyes): You better watch your steps buddy.

As Quentin is walking away, Justin begins to speak to Kelly.

Justin: What's his problem?

Kelly: Nothing (Looking at Justin)...He's just being protective...like a big brother.

Justin (Finally understanding Quentin's attitude, shakes his head in acknowledgment): Oh, okay...I see (Letting a devilish smile beam through his previous frustration)

Kelly: What do you want?

Justin (Regaining his focus): Oh, nothing...I just wanted to say you were wonderful tonight

(Pause)...Thanks for helping us out...you really saved us tonight.

Kelly: (Distance) Sure...no problem...you guys are really good...(regaining his attention)...it was fun! I had a lot of fun (Smiling, almost flirting)

Justin (More confident) Are you free tomorrow night?

Kelly (Puzzled): Why?

Justin (getting back on track): I want hoping you dance with us again next...(before Kelly can respond)...She's gonna be out a few weeks...She has some kind of injury.

Kelly (Understanding): I'm not sure, I'll be able to next week...

Justin: Can't do like tonight?

Kelly: I'm not sure I'll be working next week...I'm training with Quentin for a couple of weeks...so it all depends on his schedule...

Justin: I see...(Switching topic)...what about tomorrow night...can you come to the studio...we can work on the solo and the rest of the routine.

Kelly (Hesitant): Which studio...at what time?

Justin: Lady Luck Studio on W 43...Don't you know it...it's where all the dancers hang out on Friday...beats the downtown bar scene.

Kelly (Hesitant): No, I'm new to the city...this is my first week.

Justin (Surprised) No way! Now...I understand!!! (Shaking his head) Man! That was brave of you to get on stage with us...Wow!

Kelly feeling very proud of herself but still not fully committed.

Justin: You definitely have to come tomorrow then...I'll reserve the Studio A now...(Justin pulls out his phone and books the studio, then, looks back up at Kelly)...now you have to come...(looks around)...I'll introduce you to everybody...(Excited) It'll be fun!

Kelly (Shyly): Sure...why not...I'll have to learn the subway on my own anyhow...

Justin: Your friend (looking around to find Quentin)

Kelly (recognizing): You mean Quentin.

Justin (refocused) Yes, he's always there...I see him almost every week...maybe you can come with him.

Kelly: What time?

Justin: I booked the studio at 10:30 but we usually get there around 8-9pm and hang out till about 2am sometimes...they're opened 24 hours on the weekends.

Kelly: Okay...I'll see you there.

Justin looks around again as Quentin is heading in their direction...

Quentin (To Kelly and gently grabbing her by the shoulder): You ready to go hon?

Kelly (Smiling and looking at Quentin then back at Justin) Yes! (To Justin): See you later...

Kelly and Quentin walk off hugging and smiling.

Exterior (Night)

Quentin and Kelly are walking towards the Union Square Subway Station after leaving Justin. They are smiling and walking at a comfortable pace when Quentin begins speaking:

Quentin (Pointing behind him): What was that all about?

Kelly (Slightly caught off guard): Oh, that...(Shrugs it off)...Nothing...he wanted to say thanks...(Pauses)...he asked if I could dance with them again next week.

Quentin: Did you have fun tonight?

Kelly: Sure...Yes...but...

Quentin (Cutting Kelly off): You should go for it...you were wonderful tonight...seems like a lot of good things are happening for you because of it.

Kelly (Confused): Like?

Quentin: Like you just got a card from one of the biggest agents in the city and you are flirting with the love of your life.

Kelly and Quentin look at each other and starts to laugh.

Kelly: Can you believe it...he asked me on a date (catching herself)...sort of...he asked me to come to the Lady Luck Studio tonight so we can rehearse (smiling) our solo...

Quentin: Oh, no child...be careful with your heart girl...he's cute but he's a real heartbreaker and you sure don't need that right.

Kelly (composing herself): Yes, you are right...(pause)...I just got here...I can't afford to get sidetracked...

Quentin: That's it girl...stay focus till you settle down.

Kelly (Realizing he's telling her the truth): Yes...you are right...(softly)...but he's cute though.

Quentin and Kelly starts laughing and then, fist bump as they continue to walk toward the metro.